

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-104. (Cancelled).

105. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an abnormal cardiac rhythm comprising pacing the patient's heartbeat by:

providing a pair of electrodes disposed internal to a patient and exclusive of the patient's heart;

sensing an event in the patient's cardiac rhythm;

transferring energy from an energy source to an energy storage system;

discharging energy from the energy storage system using the electrode pair; and

determining whether the patient has an abnormally slow heartbeat, wherein the step of sensing an event in the patient's cardiac rhythm provides information for determining whether the patient has an abnormally slow heartbeat.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 113, further comprising determining whether the patient has an abnormally slow heartbeat, wherein the step of sensing an event in the patient's cardiac rhythm provides information for determining whether the patient has an abnormally slow heartbeat.

107. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 105 ~~[[106]]~~, wherein the pair of electrodes includes a first electrode disposed on a stimulus device housing the energy source and the energy storage system.

108. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, further comprising providing an implantable stimulus device implanted in the patient, the implantable stimulus device housing

the energy source and the energy storage system and being coupled to a lead system including at least one electrode of the electrode pair.

109. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 108, wherein the step of providing an implantable stimulus device includes implanting the stimulus device along the left anterior axillary line of the patient.

110. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 108, wherein the step of providing an implantable stimulus device includes implanting the stimulus device at a location between the patient's third and twelfth ribs.

111. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 108, wherein the step of providing an implantable stimulus device includes implanting the stimulus device along the inframammary crease of the patient.

112. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 108, wherein the step of providing an implantable stimulus device includes implanting the stimulus device at approximately the level of the cardiac apex.

113. (Previously Presented) A method of treating an abnormal cardiac rhythm comprising:

providing a pair of electrodes disposed internal to a patient and exclusive of the patient's heart;

sensing an event in the patient's cardiac rhythm;

transferring energy from an energy source to an energy storage system;

discharging energy from the energy storage system using the electrode pair; and

providing an implantable stimulus device implanted in the patient, the implantable stimulus device housing the energy source and the energy storage system and being coupled to a lead system including at least one electrode of the electrode pair;

wherein at least one of the pair of electrodes is located on a housing for the stimulus device.

114. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the step of sensing a cardiac event includes sensing a potential between two sensing electrodes disposed internal to the patient and exclusive of the patient's heart.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, wherein one of the sensing electrodes is also one of the pair of electrodes used to discharge energy to the patient.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the step of providing a pair of electrodes includes providing the pair of electrodes outside of the patient's vasculature.

117. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~treating an abnormal cardiac rhythm~~ pacing a patient through a bradycardia event comprising:

providing a pair of stimulus electrodes exclusive of the patient's heart;

providing an implantable stimulus device at a subcutaneous location, the implantable stimulus device housing an energy source and an energy storage device and being coupled to a lead system including at least one electrode of the electrode pair;

determining whether the patient has an abnormally slow heartbeat by sensing events in the patient's cardiac rhythm;

transferring energy from an energy source to an energy storage device; and

discharging energy from the energy storage device using the stimulus electrodes.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 117, wherein the step of determining whether the patient has an abnormally slow heartbeat includes using two sensing electrodes both disposed exclusive of the patient's heart.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118, wherein at least one of the sensing electrodes is not one of the stimulus electrodes.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 117, wherein one of the stimulus electrodes is disposed on the implantable stimulus device.

121. (Currently Amended) A method of treating bradycardia comprising providing electrical pacing stimulus between two implanted electrodes disposed exclusive of the heart.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 121, wherein the two electrodes disposed exclusive of the heart are also disposed outside of the patient's vasculature.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 121, wherein one of the electrodes is disposed on a canister for an implantable stimulus providing device.